

To the Right
HONOURABLE,
the Ladies ordinary and extraordi-
nary, assembled in Parliament, now
sitting in *Spring Garden.*

THE
HUMBLE PETITION
of many thousand Country Mayds : presen-
ted by us, whose names are heer subscribed.

Gilian, the Gentlewoman.

Anne, the Inkle maker.

*Abominable Belle, the Butch-
ers daughter.*

Maudlin, the milke wench.

Francis, the farmers daughter

Susan, the sempster.

*Simpring Sara, the Sadlers
daughter.*

Ione, the Ioyners daughter.

Isabel, the Oyster wench.

Madge, the Mariners widow.

Abigail, of the Hospitall.

Mall, the Millers daughter.

Sibill, the Smiths daughter.

Peg, the Pudding pie maker.

With Kate, the Candle seller.

Printed in the Yeare 1647.

To be Right

HONORABLE

the Ladies Society and ex. 10 di

may, attended in 1811 and 1812

being in 1811 and 1812

THE

HUMBLE PETITION

of the Ladies Society of the City of New York
to the Honorable the Senate and Assembly

in support of the petition of the
Ladies Society of the City of New York
for the establishment of a
Ladies' Seminary in the City of New York
and for the purchase of a site therefor
and for the erection of a building thereon
and for the appointment of a committee
to manage the same

Presented by the Ladies Society of the City of New York

The Humble Petition &c.

Humbly sheweth :



That whereas there hath been a bloudy and consuming warre for these five yeares last past, and not one hath taken our case into consideration, nor stood up in our gap to stop the breach which is so wide, which calls for a speedy supply of some yong men to labour in our Vineyard.

Wee your humble Petitioners, before these unnaturall warres, had variety of yong men offering us their best in-deavours to helpe us at our needes ; in former time wee could not have gone to milking, to market, to merry night, to bidden spinning ; but the yong men would have followed us at the heeles ; when wee went to milke, they would have beene there with sugar in their pockets, and many good things in their hose to sweeten our filibubbs, and to delight us ; their greatest study was how to please us.

If they met us at the market, then would they offer us Wine, Beere, and Ale, with Cakes, Plums, and great store of stone-fruit, Gloves, Ribbons, Shooe-strings, Knots, thrusting themselves upon us with much earnestnesse; nay if wee went at merry night, as the Countrey was full of them before these times of Reformation, our neighbours sonnes would have taken us out to dance, and have all to be peck the floore with hobnailes, and have layd such

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loade one our lips, that the standers by might heare him
smatch a far off.

Or had wee gone to bidden spinning, they would
have strove who should have brought us the gaye st. nose-
gayes tied with the finest knaekes, and when our l. bour
was ended, they would have layen in our wayes to waite
on us home, striving who should be most in our favours,
and most ready to serve us, wee likewise had them as-
king our Fathers consent, before they knew our mindes,
insomuch that they would send our mother presents, the
better to indeare them to their designes, and offer us cod-
lings, which they had alwaies ready for us in their bree-
ches: So that in those dayes wee had them swarming at
our houses, numberlesse knocking at our doores, forcing
open our casements, thrusting in their naked weapons at
our holes, causing us to let them in: O when they were
come in, they would keepe such a rubbing too and fro, and
put us into such a feare, that our bellies would swell in
spite of our noses; so that wee were constrained to go to
the Doctors in London, to seeke cure for our diseases, the
new made free-men then being our best curers, who were
destroyed in these devouring warres, and wee constrained
to follow a trade of our owne, which brought us in
most income in the Evenings: and our chiefeest place for
the trucking of our wares, was the Exchange, Common-
garden, and Watling streete: In former dayes we could
not have walked the streets of London; but yong men
would have called us in, and had wee had any occasion to
use any of their wares, they would not have stood long
with us.

But now we are inforced to complaine by reason there
is such a famine of yong mens flesh, that unlesse you har-
ken

ken to peace, wee are likely to be undone (since doing is our greatest desire) wee humbly pray that our cases may be debated amongst you, and layd open to all the young men in the Kingdome, by an Ordinance of that your Female Parliament. Wee Likewise wish that our wants may (by you) be presented to our Brethren of Scotland, that they may know our desires, and in order to that may joyn with us in our just demands, for the better satisfaction of so many thousand Countrey Maides.

Wee further wish you to send downe the Army to quarter with us; for though our Fathers and Masters were weary of them, wee would rather have parted with our lives, then with them; what though they were quartered, wee could well indure them, and when they had layen so long upon us, that all our victuals was devoured, would feede us with their owne flesh.

Had they gone out to any battell or skirmish and got the better, they would have pilleged the enemy of what was good for us, either bread, cheese, or apple-pye, yea if I mistake not, occupy, the which the Cavaliers were well stored of, and would have beene as forward to have fed us as themselves, if they durst for feare of that victorious Army; nor would the Army suffer them to come into our Quarters, they being (like faithfull brothers) zealously affected to us themselves: the agitators have of late been our best friends, and would not suffer the Common Souldiers to looke at us, but reserved, and preserved us for themselves: Likewise when they had taken any Townes from the enemy, they would have been sure to have brought us bodkins to thrust into our haire; nay whistles with two bells at them, with red peeces of cur-rall in the ends of them to cheerish our goomes with: all

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was fish that came to their nets ; which they thought would please us : And now wee may walke where wee will for any body that regard us ; when the Cavaliers had power in our Countrey, the Citizens Wives envying our happinesse, sent their broad headed husbands downe into the Army to chase them from us, being extremely troubled that any body should be served but themselves : But they good honest Cuckolds were as ready to please us as any, well knowing that their Wives (in their absence) Knighted them of the forked order, and wee in requitall of their husbands curtesies, sent them a paire of hornes, as a token of our loves : Wee were much beholding to those large tallented Wenches, the Citizens Daughters, who sent us a company of the honestest yong men that ever poore Wenches layd leg over, (cald the Virgins Troope) they tooke compassion on our wants, were ready at our needes, giving us points and pinnes, which did us good in our bellies ; and surely when wee heard of the ruine of those tidy yong men, wee were grieved at the very bottome of our bellies for the losse of so many forward yong Souldiers, that would have stood to us when wee had a desire to use them.

Wee have great cause to complaine on the Army, Parliament, and City, for the great wrong done us in expelling the Reformadoes, and reduced Officers out of the Kingdome ; they were our good friends, and did us often good turnes : Had any poore wretches more cause to lament then wee ? Who if any body give us due benevolence (as a grave Presbyterian or Bishop very learnedly sayd to his religious Wife) he is presently banish'd our quarters.

What a great shame is this, that no body laies our wants

wants to heart ; but seeking every day how they may raise a new warre to deprive us of our so much desired thoughts :

Our further desire, is that you who sit at the Helme, would take a speciall and speedy course in hand for the supplying of our desires ; that wee may have no more warres, but more of the yong mens wares, which wee prize above our lives and fortunes.

Wee likewise wish you to have a care that the Scotch Nation come not in unto us, for should they, wee would beate up their quarters our selves, and send them to their owne Countries in the same order with the Citizens of London.

Therefore our humble desire is, that an Ordinance may come forth to declare the Scots Cuckolds, and their Wives Whores, and their Children Bastards ; because they invade our Priviledges : Thus being assured that you will not deny, nor delay our desires, being they are of that importance, which if you should, it will cause us to wrap our tallents in a napkin, which wee hope you will not suffer, but that wee may have all cause to applaud you, and wee shall ever pray, &c.

FINIS.